MACPHAIL, Sir ANDREW [Editor, University Magazine] · May 1919 (064)

DR. ANDREW MACPHAIL

23

Board

(PERSONAL)

216 Peel St.
Montreal MAY 6th 1919.

SIR ROBERT FALCONER,
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
TORONTO.

Dear Falconer:

Since my return from overseas, in March, I have been in hospital for an operation upon my eye, which has been a fair success, but I shall be in the house for three weeks yet and it will be the autumn before I shall be able to read.

In the meantime, I am considering the future of the University Magazine. For many years, as you are aware, by mendicancy, personal offerings, and by an expenditure on my own part, the Magazine has been kept in operation, and for a time a fair payment was made to contributors. Whilst I was away no payment was made to contributors and the Magazine has just about carried its own burden, although there is a deficit of $3,000 as a result of the last twelve years' operations.

I am greatly pressed to continue it and four men have agreed to contribute $2.00 a year each. All of these amounts must go to contributors. I am now searching the field to find what support will be forthcoming. When the Magazine was established the University of Toronto contributed $1,000 for the first year, but it was soon after discontinued, for reasons about which I never was very clear.

Sir William Peterson, unfortunately, is laid aside, and I am deprived of his advice and assistance.

I should greatly like to know from you, if your University would give any financial help. The reason for ascertaining the support which I am likely to receive is largely sentimental as a sign that the work of editing is worth doing. I am convinced that the necessity for such a Magazine was never greater than at present, but at times this faith weakens, especially when the printing bill becomes due. The cost of printing has increased 50%, whilst the subscription remains the same, and I would not consider advancing it. In previous years I was able to do much of the mechanical detail myself, but I am warned that the use of my eyes must be reduced to the lowest terms. Accordingly, I should have, in the future, to pay for much of the work that in the past I was able to do for myself. I am only anxious for a continuance of the Magazine and I would gladly see the editing go to Toronto, if anyone there could take it up. I have even considered forming a small company to give an organized life to the venture. My reason tells me that I should abandon it entirely but my feeling is that this periodical should be kept alive.

If the University of Toronto could, not as a matter of charity, but as a public service, guarantee $1,000 a year, I would undertake to raise an additional $1,000 here, with a view to paying contributors, the printing account, the secretarial work and, possibly, in time, extinguishing the deficit which has already been incurred. After two or three years of further trial, if the

Magazine did not carry itself, I would think well to abandon it entirely.

I am to go to Prince Edward Island on June 1st, and by that time will have arrived at a decision. To that end, will you not be so kind as to tell me what support I may expect to receive from Toronto.

I am fully sensible of the financial difficulties of nearly everybody in these times, and how unwelcome such appeals as these are. The streams are drying up and I fear that it will tax our resources in Canada to meet the bare necessities of life. I am sure you will give me your best judgment upon the whole questiom. If, even, you are obliged to say that the University can do nothing, that also would be a valuable contribution to the information I am searching for.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Macphail

per. M. J. Lindsay

The above letter, dictated by Sir Andrew Macphail, has been,-on account of an impairement of his sight, signed at his request, by me.

M. J. Lindsay

May 7th, 1919

Sir Andrew Macphail,
216 Peel Street,
Montreal, Q.

My dear Sir Andrew:

I am very sorry to hear from you and particularly to know that your eyesight has been impaired so seriously. It must be a very great trial that you are unable to read. In fact few greater afflictions could fall upon you. I hope that you will yet deliverance soon.

I wish also that I could, especially at this time, give you greater encouragement as to the possibility of the University contributing for the maintenance of the magazine. When we were in much easier circumstances financially than we are to-day the Governors could not be persuaded to continue their support, as they were of opinion that its scope fell rather outside of what a university could legitimately be asked to maintain. At the same time this was not due to any lack of appreciation, because I have on several occasions had individual members of the Board express very warm appreciation of the quality of the magazine. We are now in great difficulties financially, and I am also engaged with others in endeavouring to raise outside, particularly among the graduates, a fairly large War Memorial Fund. The going is pretty hard. The stream as you say seems to be drying up. One or two of the men who are most interested in the magazine are away, and I do not think

that I could secure from private sources such money at present. I will, however, be glad to lay the whole matter before the Board of Governors on Thursday, and write you after the Board has discussed it.

When I send you such discouraging word it may be adding insult to injury to say that such a valuable magazine should not be allowed to disappear. The fact of its being edited in Toronto would not matter. Your own editorship would be accepted by everybody as being obviously the best.

I have just finished your memoir of John McCrae. It is well done, particularly as a revelation of yourself. I had not realised how much good poetry McCrae had written.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

May 10th, 1919

Sir Aaron Sachnoki,

216 Peel Street,

Montreal.

Dear Sir Aaron:

I read your letter on Thursday to the Board of Governors and the result was very much as I expected. The Board is of opinion as they were formerly that the scope of the University Training lies outside of what they could legitimately devote funds essentially as a line upon the deficit of the University is as very large as it is at present. I may say that the individual members of the Board spoke very kindly of your work in connection with the exhibition. This, however, will give you little support for the present, and I must say that I personally feel much regret that we are unable as a University to come to your assistance.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.